

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 2-7, 11-16 and 18-21 now stand in the present application, claims 2-7 and 11-16 having been amended, claims 1 and 10 having been canceled and replaced with new claims 20 and 21. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-7, 10-16, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Marazakis et al. in view of O'Brien et al. In view of the above-described amendments and/or the following remarks, all of the claims now standing in this case are believed to patentably define over the cited references taken either singly or in combination.

Newly added independent claims 20 and 21 are believed to include a feature d) that is not taught or suggested by either one of the cited references. More particularly, feature d) indicates that performance service analysis definitions are stored which indicate what data is required from a multi-agent system in order for the performance analysis system to be able to carry out the requested performance analysis service. As noted, this feature is nowhere found in either of the cited references. It is this feature, however, which enables different multi-agent systems to share the same performance analysis system and thus reduces the complexity of each individual multi-agent system, since that multi-agent system need not itself include performance management facilities (the Examiner should note that the multi-agent system in the O'Brien reference has its own "visualizer" for example).

In addition, the feature a) of claims 20 and 21 represents stored business process descriptions, which are used by the performance analysis system to provide a

performance measurement. This feature of newly added independent claims 20 and 21 means that the analysis system can analyse the performance of a business process management system at a higher level than the level of performance of a single component. The importance of this advantage is stressed at page 6, lines 15-16 of the present application. This feature of Applicants' newly added independent claims is also nowhere suggested in either Marazakis or O'Brien.

Accordingly, newly added independent claims 20 and 21, and their respective dependent claims, are believed to patentably define over the cited art, taken singly or in combination, for the reasons given above.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of claims 18-19, Applicants note that the feature a) of the claims, which is similar to that described above with respect to claims 20 and 21, relates to stored business process descriptions that are used by the performance analysis system in order to provide a performance measurement, and is not taught or suggested by Marazakis or O'Brien. As noted above, this feature means that the analysis system can analyse the performance of a business process management system at a higher level than the level of performance of a single component. Also, as noted above, the importance of this advantage is stressed at page 6, lines 15-16 of the present application. Accordingly, these claims are also believed to be patentably defined over the cited references taken either singly or in combination.

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of claims 2-7, 11-16, and 18-21, now standing in the application, be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved

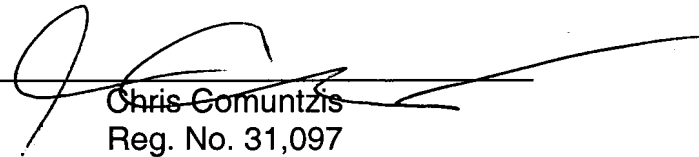
CUI et al.  
Appl. No. 09/936,522  
May 29, 2007

through either a supplemental response or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Chris Comuntzis  
Reg. No. 31,097

CC:lmr  
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100